

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 713Z

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: PLATAJUNTA BLASTS REFORM PROGRAM

SUMMARY. THE OPPOSITION PLATAJUNTA, IN A SEPT 18 COMMUNIQUE, CHARACTERIZED THE DRAFT REFORM LAW AS THE BEST THE GOVT COULD DO. GIVEN THE "AUTHORITARIAN NATURE OF THE REGIME'S INSTITUTIONS," BUT AS CLEARLY INADEQUATE TO POLITICAL REALITY. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TOUGH COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WAS FORESHADOWED BY SA SHRILL SEPT 15 PCE ATTACK ON THE LAW, AND THE MORE ACCOMMODATING STATEMENTS MADE BY INDIVIDUAL PLATAJUNTA MEMBERS POINTS UP THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOVT HAS STOLEN A MARCH ON THE
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OPPOSITION WITH THE ANNOUCEMENT OF THE DRAFT REFORM

LAW. END SUMMARY.

1. SPECIFICALLY, THE COMMUNIQUE STATE THAT THE "DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION MUST REJECT THE CALLING OF A REFERENDUM AND OF ELECTIONS NOT ONLY BECAUSE THIS REFORMIST PLAN WAS NOT NEGOTIATED WITH THE OPPOSITION,BUT PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE", THE PEOPLE CANNOT BE CALLED ON TO EXERCISE THEIR SOVERIGNTY BY VOTING SO LONG AS THE FULL EXERCISE OF THEIR LIBERTIES DO NOT EXIST.

"THE GOVT CANNOT ATTEMPT TO SOLVE GRAVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHILE EXCLUDING FROM ITS PLAN PRECISELY THOSE SOCIAL SECTORS MOST AFFECTED BY THEM". AND "THE CURRENT CRISIS IS A PROFOUND CRISIS OF THE AUTH-ORITARIAN STATE, NOT A SIMPLE GOVT CRISIS, AND CAN ONLY BE OVERCOME THROUGH AN AUTHENTIC CONSTITUENT PROCESS."

2. THE COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDED WITH A REAFFIRMATION OF THE PLATAJUNTA'S WILL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE GOVT AND A REITERATION OF THE COLITIONS PRESCRIPTION FOR THE TRANSITION: FORMATION OF A GOVT OF BROAD DEMOCRATIC CONSENSUS: RECOGNITION OF THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE REGIONS AND NATIONALITIES: POLITICAL AND SYNDICAL LIBERTIES WITHOUT EXCLUSIONS: TOTAL AMNESTY IMPLEMENTATION OF A CONCERTED ECONOMIC PROGRAM TO DEAL WITH INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND OPENING OF A CONSTITUENT PERIOD

3. THE PLATAJUNTA STATEMENT IS MUCH MORE IN TUNE WITH A SHRILL PCE COMMUNIQUE OF SEPT 15 THAN IT IS WITH THE RELATIVELY UPBEAT COMMENTS MADE PRIVATELY, AND IN SOME CASES PUBLICLY, BY INDIVIDUAL DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION LEADERS. WHILE THE PCE LAST WEEK REJECTED THE GOVT DRAFT LAW AND REITERATED ITS CALL FOR THE FORMATION OF A "PROVISIONAL GOVT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION TO GUARANTEE FREE ELECTIONS" (IN WHICH THE PCE WOULD BE REPRESENTED), OTHER IMPORTANT OPPOSITION GROUPS HAVE TAKEN QUITE A DIFFERENT TACK. ALTHOUGH THE PSOE HAS ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT QUITE CRITICAL OF THE DRAFT LAW, PARTY LEADER LUIS YANEZ HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THE PSOE LEADERSHIP CONSIDERS THE LAW TO BE AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD. "ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT SAY THAT PUBLICLY." POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) LEADERS TIerno GALVAN AND

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RAUL MORODO HAVE PUBLICLY RECOGNIZED THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE LAW, AND TIerno HAS WARNED THE OPPOSITION AGAINST TAKING "MAXIMALIST" POSITIONS: AND "IZQUIERDA DEOMCRATICA" (ID) HAS DISSEMINATED ITS OWN PUBLIC STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE LAW IN HIGHLY FAVORABLE TERMS, AND PARTY LEADER RUIZ GIMENEZ REPORTEDLY LED THE UNSUCCESSFUL OPPOSITION TO THE TOUGH COMMUNIQUE IN FRIDAY'S PLATAJUNTA SESSION.

4. COMMENT: THE UNCOMPROMISING LANGUAGE OF THE PLATAJUNTA DOCUMENT PROBABLY IS PRINCIPALLY THE RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM THE PCE, WHICH APPARENTLY IS INCREASING CONCERN THAT THE NON COMMUNIST OPPOSITION GROUPS WILL PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS FROM WHICH THE PCE IS EXCLUDED. THE STATEMENTS IMPACT HAS BEEN ATTENUATED SOMEWHAT BY THE PROLIFERATION OF INDIVIDUAL PARTY PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THE DRAFT LAW. MOREOVER, THE RELATIVE MODERATION OF THE PARTY COMMUNIQUE HAS SERVED TO EMPHASIZE THE RIGIDITY OF THE PLATAJUNTA DOCUMENT AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSIDERABLE MEDIA CRITICISM WHICH IT HAS EVOKED. EVEN "EL PAIS", WHICH IS GAINING THE REPUTATION OF BEING A SOMETHING OF A HOUSE ORGAN FOR THE LEFT OPPOSITION, CHIDED THE PLATAJUNTA MEMBERS FOR THEIR RATHER CONFUSING INCONSISTENCY: MILITANCE INCOORDINATED PUBLIC STATEMENTS, MODERATION IN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS AND PRIVATE ASSURANCES. THIS INCONSISTENCY REFLECTS AT LEAST A TEMPORARY HEIGHTENING OF TENSION WITHIN THE PLATAJUNTA ITSELF.

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